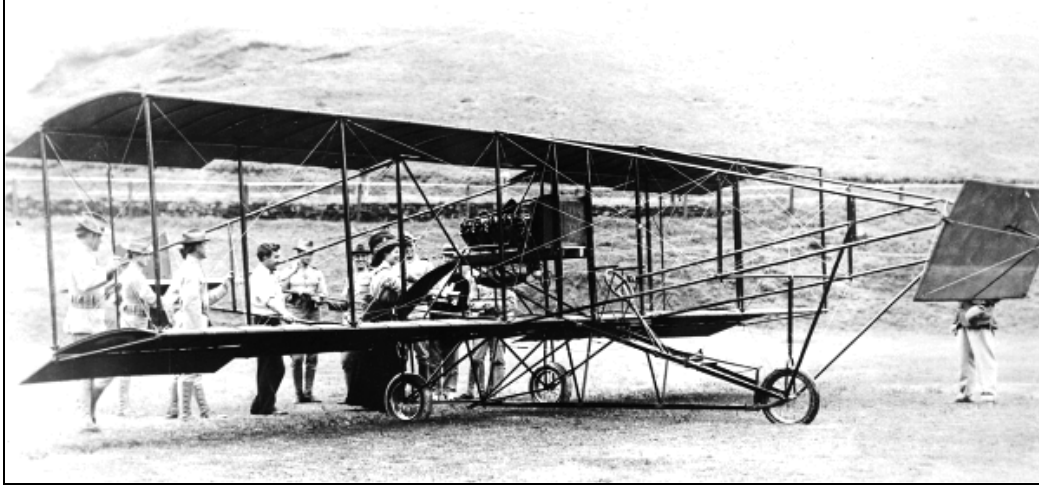


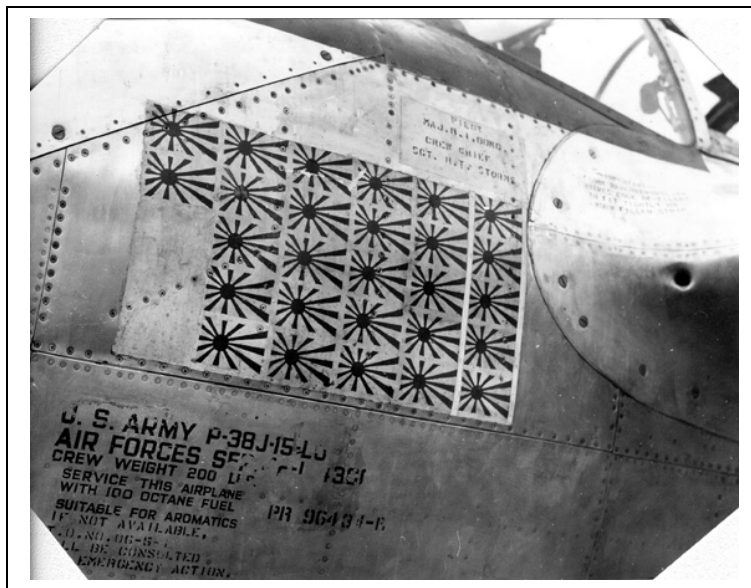
This Week in PACAF and USAF History
25 – 31 December 2006

31 Dec 1910 The first powered flight takes place in Hawaii, as James C. “Bud” Mars flies a Curtiss Skylark over Honolulu’s Moanalua Polo Field. The P-18 biplane was constructed of spruce, ash, bamboo, steel tubing, and rubberized silk wings. (See photo in Hawaii, below).



27 Dec 1935 Five Keystone LB-5 bombers of the 23d and 72d Bombardment Squadrons at Luke Field dropped twenty 600-pound bombs in the path of a lava flow from the Mauna Loa volcano on the Big Island. The lava threatened the city of Hilo when Mauna Loa erupted. The squadrons were credited with diverting the lava flow.

27 Dec 1942 Flying his P-38 Lightning against the Japanese in the Pacific, 2Lt Richard I. Bong scored his first two aerial victories. He later became the top ace in the war. (See close-up of Maj Bong’s aerial credits painted on his P-38, below).



Christmas 1969 The 459th Tactical Airlift Squadron, fellow squadron with the 535th TAS in Vietnam, painted a C-7 Caribou in a Christmas theme, known as “Santa Bou.” (See photos that follow, courtesy of the C-7 Caribou Association web site @ <http://www.c-7acaribou.com/>).



30 Dec 1945 Lt Gen Ennis G. Whitehead became the commander of Pacific Air Command, US Army (FEAF's redesignation as of 6 December 1945), taking over from Lt Gen George C. Kenney. Gen Whitehead remained as commander until 25 April 1949, by which time PACUSA redesignated as Far East Air Forces.

27 Dec 1968 The first men to circle the moon -- Apollo 8 astronauts, Air Force Colonel Frank Borman, Navy Captain James A. Lovell Jr., and Air Force Major William A. Anders -- splashed down at 10:51 a.m., some 1,000 miles southwest of Hawaii, concluding their historic lunar orbit mission. En route to Houston, the crew arrived at Hickam on 28 December 1968 where some 10,000 people were on hand to greet them.

29 Dec 1988 The first operational dual-role (air superiority and deep interdiction) McDonnell Douglas F-15E fighter is delivered to the Air Force.

30 Dec 1990 – 6 July 1991 During the Gulf War, the 374th Tactical Airlift Wing deployed C-130s, associated aircrews, and support personnel for Desert Shield and Desert Storm operations in Southwest Asia. Concurrently, the wing provided airlift and aeromedical aircraft for the evacuation of Clark AB, Philippines, following the eruption of Mount Pinatubo between 8 June and 1 July 1991. On 1 April 1992, with the implementation of the objective wing, the 374th was reassigned to Fifth Air Force and redesignated the 374th Airlift Wing.

26 Dec 2001 The Pentagon approved the low-rate initial production of the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile (JASSM). (See photo of F-16 releasing JASSM).



28 Dec 2001

President Bush signs defense Authorization Bill, which in part directs the DoD to make available to the Air

Force Memorial Foundation up to three acres of the Naval Annex property for use as the location of the Air Force Memorial. The memorial is dedicated on 15 Oct 2006.

26 Dec 2004

UNIFIED ASSISTANCE TSUNAMI RELIEF. A 9.0 earthquake in the Indian Ocean triggered an enormous tsunami with 30-foot-high waves that slammed into the coasts of 13 nations and killed at least 300,000 people. The death toll was greatest in Indonesia where at least 100,000 people perished. Another three to five million people in South Asia and Southeast Asia were left without clean water, food, shelter, and sanitation. By 23 February 2005 (the end of Operation Unified Assistance), AMC aircraft had flown 106 missions to airlift 2,768 passengers and 3,370 short tons of cargo to Bandaranaike IAP in Colombo, Sir Lanka, U-Tapao AB, Thailand, and Banda Aceh and Jakarta IAPs in Indonesia. An expanded account is found in the study “With Compassion and Hope: The Story of Operation Unified Assistance — the Air Force Support for Tsunami Relief Operations in Southeast Asia” available on CD-ROM from the PACAF History Office.

**Banda Aceh Shore
23 June 04 (BEFORE)**



**Banda Aceh Shore
28 Dec 04 (AFTER)**

